



ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
**NICOLE PARRA**  
Representing the 30th Assembly District



## Parra Notes

January 27, 2006

Hello Friends:

This past weekend, I had the pleasure of walking neighborhoods and knocking on doors with **Pastor Jordan, Isiah Crompton**, and others as we worked hard to get out the message about stopping violence in our communities. I encourage everyone, from individuals, to families, to groups of friends, and any concerned organizations to join us in making our streets safer for our families and our children. For more information on the **Stop the Violence** campaign, please contact Pastor Jordan at (661) 472-2637.

**THE WEEK IN SACRAMENTO:** This week, I spent a lot of time on the Assembly Floor, evaluating and voting on some of my colleagues' bills. Deadlines are approaching quickly and my staff and I are working on this year's legislative package.

**AB 1878** is the first piece of legislation I introduced in the Assembly this year. **AB 1878**, will call for the creation of a **San Joaquin Valley Regional Council of Governments** to handle transportation and planning issues. As we discuss future bonds, it is important to have a unified voice on transportation planning in order to maximize the amount of funds we need in the Central Valley.

Also, one of my bills, **AB 479**, passed out of the Assembly with strong bi-partisan support. **AB 479** requires the **Department of Water Resources** to examine the economic impacts of water supply reduction on the **San Joaquin Valley**.

In the coming months, I will also be introducing legislation concerning the issue of **identity theft**. Specifically, the legislation I intend to propose will make it illegal to possess the personal information of five or more people without a legitimate business reason for having that information. The other identity theft legislation I will be carrying will extend the statute of limitations for identity theft from the date the crime was committed to the date the crime was discovered – this will give victims and law enforcement more time to bring offenders to justice.

Also this week I met with **John Haramalis**, who serves as **President of the National Guard Association of California**. We discussed issues relating to the California National Guard and I expressed to him our continued support for our troops.

On Wednesday morning I joined **Charlie Bikakis** and other members of the **California Association of County Veterans Service Officers, Inc. (CACVSO)** for breakfast in the Capitol

Building. The **CACVSO** is an organization committed to advocating for veterans' rights and to making sure that our communities fulfill their obligation to veterans for all they have done on our behalf, both here and abroad.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize three individuals honored at the **Corcoran Chamber of Commerce Man & Woman of the Year 2005 Banquet**. *Congratulations* to **Ray Lerma**, Man of the Year; **Mary Wadsworth**, Woman of the Year; and **Spencer Rietkerk, Jr.** Citizen of the Year. We should all be grateful to have such upstanding and involved fellow citizens in our community.

### **Upcoming Event**

#### **CAL GRANTS AND FAFSA WORKSHOPS**

As many of you might know paying for college can be difficult, but California has always been a leader in providing eligible students with an affordable college education. Cal Grants, a need-based financial aid program, has been a big part of making college affordable for many Californian families. Qualified students can get up to \$8,322 a year to attend almost any college in California – awards vary depending on need, grades and the college you attend.

This year I will be hosting four **Cal Grant and FAFSA Workshops** throughout my district to give high school seniors, community college transfer students (under 24 years of age), and GED holders (within one year of completion) an opportunity to learn about and apply for **Cal Grants** and other types of financial assistance programs. It's important to note that in order to be considered for many of these programs you must submit a **Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** application to the **U.S. Department of Education** before **March 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

The first of the four workshops will occur on **Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>** in **Kingsburg**. Below you will find a list of dates and locations of other Cal Grant Workshops I will be hosting throughout the district. If you are unable to make any of these, I encourage you to visit [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) for information on filling out a FAFSA form and [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov) for information on CAL Grants.

#### **Kingsburg**

**Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**Kingsburg High School (New Gymnasium)**

**1900 18<sup>th</sup> Ave.**

#### **McFarland**

**Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Noon to 2:00 p.m.**

**McFarland High School Cafeteria**

**601 Second St.**

#### **Arvin**

**Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Noon to 2:00 p.m.**

**Arvin High School Cafeteria**

**900 Varsity Road**

#### **Hanford**

## TBD

If you are planning to attend any of these workshops please be sure to bring the documents listed below. They will be needed to properly fill out your financial aid forms.

- Federal income tax returns from 2004 or 2003
- Your W-2 forms or pay-check stubs
- Bank statements
- Your Social Security Card or number
- Your parents' W-2 forms
- Your parents' Social Security Card or numbers

Any students interested in nursing careers should strongly consider applying for the Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship at Bakersfield College. **IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY!**

I know how stressful it can be to have to worry about taking out student loans to pay for college, but you never have to repay scholarship money.

For more information on applying for the **Fall 2006/Spring 2007** scholarship call the Health Professionals Education Foundation at **1-800-773-1669** or visit [www.healthprofessions.ca.gov](http://www.healthprofessions.ca.gov). The application **deadline** for the fall 2006/spring 2007 school year scholarship is **March 24<sup>th</sup> 2006**.

### Upcoming Event

#### **OPERATION VALENTINE'S FOR VETERANS**

Finally, like I promised you, more details on our **Veterans Bus Ride**. For those of you unable to take part in the last years Veterans Bus Ride, mark your calendars because we are taking another trip on **Friday, February 10th**. This trip will be different from last years in that we will be delivering **Valentine cards** made by local school children to **Veterans** residing at the **Fresno VA Hospital**. The bus trip will begin at my **Bakersfield district office** and make stops in **Hanford** and **Lemoore**. Exact times are still being set. As soon as they are final, I will be sure to let you know. For more information and to RSVP, please call my Hanford District Office at (559)585-7170. Space is limited and participants will be accommodated on a first come, first serve basis.

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

#### **SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

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#### **YOUTH IN NEED**

The California Coalition for Youth's (CCY) mission is to be the PLACE that improves and empowers the lives of California's youth by:

- Partnering with youth
- Linking with youth-serving programs throughout California
- Advocating for youth rights
- Connecting youth to resources
- Educating communities policymakers and stakeholders

The CCY also coordinates a statewide, toll free, 24-hour, confidential phone crisis line available to young people between the ages of 12-24, and concerned friends and family members. CCY provides crisis intervention counseling on many issues including family problems, sexual assault, eating disorders, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, suicide and more. CCY offers support, encouragement, and referrals to youth needing assistance or in crisis situations. The California Youth Crisis Line connects an average of 12,000 callers with vital resources annually. Agencies as well as young adults from every county in California use the Crisis Line's toll-free number, 1-800-843-5200.

### **NEED HOMEWORK HELP?**

The California State Library has made available through their website a new service called **Live Homework Help**. This service enables students to connect on-line with a tutor for assistance with homework questions. Supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funding, students can access Live Homework Help through [28 California public libraries](#). It is important to note that the tutors who respond to student questions are screened, trained, and closely monitored.

Live Homework Help is easy! Log on to <http://www.library.ca.gov/tutor/> from your computer any time between **1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.** and follow the simple setup instructions.

### **MEETING REQUESTS**

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my Executive Secretary Ellen Manolis at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov).

### **INTERNS WANTED**

I am accepting applications for the fall internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield and Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30th Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Matt Rogers** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at [Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov).

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Paula DeLaRiva** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at [Paula.DeLaRiva@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Paula.DeLaRiva@asm.ca.gov).

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov).

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**Hanford Office:**

**Capitol Office:**

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P.O. Box 942849  
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**Web Site:** <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

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